3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

Powers suffer from diplomatic reticence, and the Austrians themselves are under restraint.

From February 1946 to October 1949 I was working in Austria as British Council Representative. The many contacts I made then have been invaluable in the preparation of this book, and I owe a great deal to my Austrian friends and acquaintances. They have helped me in a wide variety of ways and have given encouragement and constructive criticism. I am particularly indebted to my colleagues at Vienna University and to many good friends who are engaged in educational and cultural work.

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Sources for the period of the Provisional Government, from April to December 1945, are particularly scarce. There was no Parliament, there were few newspapers, and comparatively little has been published on the subject. British and American documents covering the period are still 'classified', and the publication of the reports of the British and American Elements had not started. I have therefore depended largely on information gathered in interviews with some of the Austrians and British who played leading parts in the events of that time. Some of my most reliable informants, however, spoke freely on the understanding that they would not be quoted.